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From the Editor's Desk

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



John P. Mullooly, M.D.

Responding to the needs of our times, the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds passed what may well prove to be an historic resolution at its meeting in San Francisco in June, 1972. The resolution reads as follows:

Resolved that the *Linacre Quarterly* must become the pre-eminent journal of medical ethics and in order to do this it must

1. Invite and solicit serious, responsible, scholarly articles within the Judeo-Christian tradition;
2. Invite ecumenical scholars to join our Advisory Board who are of recognized stature within their own ranks;
3. Serve as a clearing house for serious, ethical thought and discussion on medical matters;
4. Aggressively promote the *Linacre Quarterly* in the medical and university community;
5. Give distinct emphasis to traditional Roman Catholic doctrinal content on medical-moral matters.

The need for taking this step has been evident to the more thoughtful members of the medical community for some time. It is gratifying to report that initial reaction to the resolution has largely been one of enthusiasm. The ethical issues confronting medicine today are well known to us all. However, the solutions to these modern ethical dilemmas are not so clear. Questions to which there are no ready answers continue to be asked, and the world continues to search for these answers. In order to arrive at solutions, considerable thought and debate are essential.

Backed by the approval of the National Federation Board, the *Linacre Quarterly* intends to launch itself into the mainstream of the current medical-moral discussions. Through this exchange, it hopes to serve as

a clearing house for medical-moral thought in the medical community.

During its thirty-eight years, the *Linacre Quarterly* has built up an enviable reputation for presenting authentic, reliable articles on medical-moral matters from the traditional Roman Catholic viewpoint. While continuing to do this, the *Linacre* will now broaden its purview and expand its Editorial Board in order to incorporate other areas of thought and discipline. It is hoped that we will be able to present the most up-to-date thought in medical-moral discussion. This new approach represents a departure from the past. It must be remembered, however, that the articles published do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Editorial Board or the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds.

Admittedly there is doubt and apprehension about the wisdom of this course. The intent of the Board of Directors and its Editor is to provide a medium for honest, frank exchange among the medical, philosophical and religious communities. There is no single journal that has fulfilled this need. Now the *Linacre Quarterly* will try to fill this gap by providing the impetus and leadership necessary during these critical times. Hopefully God will guide us through the years ahead.

John P. Mullooly, M.D.
Editor

Letters . . .

To the Editor:

Congratulations on the fine work with the *Linacre Quarterly*. The issues get better and better, and certainly the May issue is one of the very best. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours,
John M. Malone, M.D.
Farmington, Michigan 48024

you in America. The profession is suffering an ethical crisis from which it will take a long time to recover, but we must press ahead optimistically, confident that God will help us. And we in small countries know that the *Linacre Quarterly* will also help us. That is why it must be of outstanding quality.

H. P. Dunn, M.D.
Auckland, New Zealand

To the Editor:

I was pleased to see the policy recommendations in the resolution emerging from the San Francisco meeting. The future role of the *Linacre Quarterly* is most important, as much to us overseas as to

[*Editor's Note: Doctor Dunn, Corresponding Editor from New Zealand, refers to policy changes for Linacre approved at the June meeting of the National Federation Board. He will serve as Guest Editor of the February issue.*]